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"These are the time
that try men's souls.
The summer soldier
and the sunshine
patriot will, in crisis,
shrink from service
of his country; but he
that stands it NOW
deserves the love and
thanks of man and
woman."

Thomas Paine

Thanks to ALL who stand
NOW.



Illinois Newsletter

January 2005

www.il.ngb.army.mil/esgr



Please remember if you have anything that you would like to be included in the newsletter in the future,
email Shannon.Pennell@il.ngb.army.mil



Letter from The Chairman

Where have we been? Where are we now? Where are we going?

Our Illinois ESGR committee has continued to raise the bar and increase our visibility. The September 11, 2001 attack, and our war against terrorism have dramatically changed our focus. In the past, our committee was performing services primarily for Reserve Component troops who had difficulties on their regular training. There were few major problems and USERRA rights and responsibilities were basic. We contacted units and gave basic presentations. Statewide, the ESGR group and mission, were little known and under utilized.

Today, we have, by necessity and by design, become a more active, involved group. We have recruited new members eager to join our efforts to support employers and our military. We are in the process of visiting representatives of all the statewide Reserve Components so they can better identify with the support and services we provide. We have noticed a trend of phone calls being made before a problem comes up, rather than after, thereby avoiding conflict and ensuring improved employer support. Our Boss Lifts have increasingly focused on ESGR as the mission of the trip while highlighting the high quality of our troops and their training.

We are emphasizing training to our area chairs and all committee members. Our annual meeting is now focused on updating all members and recognizing and honoring the benefits of a full-time ESGR Executive Director. We are now a more recognized resource to our employers and reservist than we were just a few years ago.

Our goals are numerous, and we will continue to change and modify them as our National leaders identify additional needs and as we in Illinois see more opportunities to reach those we serve. We will increase efforts in leading companies to sign Statements of Support. We will continue to attract new members throughout the state. More emphasis will be given to employer outreach via presentations and briefings with the Boss. Emphasis on Unit Liaison will increase.

Active volunteers have made our Illinois ESGR effective. Thank you all.
Happy New Year.



Above and Beyond Award Recipients



Motorola receives the Above and Beyond Award. Picture from left to right is SMSgt Madeleine Reid (nominator from USAFR, employed by Motorola), Mike McCormick (employer with Motorola), William Glynn IL ESGR Vice Chair (presenter), Andy Ill (employer with Motorola), GySgt John Marlowe (nominator from USMCR, employed by Motorola), and CPT Mike Miller (nominator from USAR, employed by Motorola).



Vice Chair Bill Glynn presenting Hershey Plant Robinson with Above and Beyond Award. Accepting the award is TSgt Jeffrey Hawkins from the ANG and an employee of Hershey.



Vice Chair Bill Glynn presenting COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services with Above and Beyond Award. Accepting the award is the nominator, CPT Bill Gardner with the ARNG and the CEO of COUNTRY, John Blackburn



Vice Chair William Glynn (far right) presents the Above and Beyond Award to United Airlines. Accepting the award is Tom Abraham (far left) from United and the nominator MSgt Robert Schull, a member of the Air National Guard and employee at United.

Recipients continued on page 3

2004 Annual Illinois ESGR Awards and Training Conference

The Illinois Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) held their annual awards conference for employers on November 5, 2004. The awards ceremony was held in Bloomington.

The Pro Patria Award which honors the outstanding Guard or Reserve component employer within the state is the highest award given by the Illinois Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

The winner for 2004 was the Boeing Company based in Chicago Illinois.

Boeing has consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty when supporting Guard and Reserve personnel. They provide salary matching and insurance coverage

for members and family, and provide coverage for annual training periods.

Boeing has a family support coordinator to keep in touch with family members of deployed Guardsman/Reservist. They also provided bonuses to members of the Guard/Reserve that deployed due to September 11th.

The Above and Beyond Award which recognize those employers or agencies who have gone above and beyond the Uniformed Service Employment and Re-employment Rights Act (USERRA) law and provided meritorious leadership and initiative in support of the men and women who serve the United States of America in the Guard and Reserve. These prestigious awards are presented to only a small number of employers out of the several thousands of employers that have Guard and Reserve members working for them. The State of Illinois currently has 26,000 members of the Guard and Reserve.

The Illinois companies who received this years Above and Beyond Awards were Hershey Foods in Robinson IL, Country Insurance and Financial Services in Bloomington, IL, Daimler Chrysler Services Truck Finance in Lysle, IL, United Airlines, Motorola, Abbott Laboratories, Illinois Power, Fritolay, Chicago Police Department, Charleston Police Department, Arlington Heights Fire Department, Buffalo Grove Police Department.



Vice Chair, William Glynn presents Pro Patria and Above and Beyond to CPO Don Harrington from the USNR and an employee of Boeing.



(Continued from page 2)

Above and Beyond Award Recipients



CW2 Douglas Determan (left) accepts Above and Beyond Award for Abbott Laboratories from William Glynn (right), Vice Chair.



Vice Chair William Glynn presents the Above and Beyond to Daimler Chrysler. Accepting the award is Johannes Riesterer.



Shawn Schukar (left) accepts the Above and Beyond Award for Illinois Power. Angela Briddick, spouse of SSgt Wes Briddick (nominator from USAR, employee of Illinois Power), attends on behalf of her deployed husband. Presenting the award is IL ESGR Vice Chair, William Glynn (right).



Troy Ginger (left) and SPC Nate Shepard (middle, nominator from ARNG and employee of Frito-Lay) accepts Above and Beyond Award for Fritolay from William Glynn (right), Vice Chair.

Recipients continued on page 4

EVENTS Calendar

Past Events during the Quarter

5 Oct – Bob Pinkerton spoke to Rotary in Eureka

12 Oct- John Ady and Shannon Pennell presented the ESGR story to the SHRM Chapter in Champaign. Fifty plus human resource professionals attended.

18 Oct- Quarterly Executive Committee in Chicago. Ron Bacci, state ombudsman chair, hosted the meeting at the new ABN AMRO headquarters building in Chicago. Emphasis was on planning for our annual conference in Bloomington and coordinating the schedule of events for 2005.

26 Oct- UNIT BRIEFING: Orville Franks and Dave Lyles gave mobilization briefing to Battery B, 2/123 FA at the Macomb High School, next to the armory. 100-150 soldiers and their families were in attendance.

27 Oct- John Scully gave briefing to the American Legion in Chicago at a luncheon.

27 Oct- Ron Bacci presented the Patriot Certificate to the Anita Davidson, the United States Postal Service Inspector in Charge. Arthurine Jones nominated her from the 308th Civil Affairs Brigade USAR and was deployed for 14 months in support of Iraqi Freedom.

5/6 Nov – Illinois ESGR Annual Awards Dinner and Training Conference in Bloomington.

ESGR members also received recognition on the 6th of November at the luncheon for their volunteer efforts and dedication to the organization this year. Maryann Morrison speaks about the ESGR awards offered in Illinois and how much the volunteers are appreciated (see picture on right).



7 Nov – UNIT BRIEFING, Bill Glynn gave presentation to Fort Sheridan Chapter of the Reserve Officers Association, guests include 1st Brigade, 85th Division; 330th Medical Brigade; 801st Combat Support Hospital as well as many other drilling reservists.

7 Nov – UNIT BRIEFING – Peoria, Orville Franks, 106th

9 Nov – UNIT BRIEFING, 123 Mobilization Brief in Milan given by John Gessner.



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Above and Beyond Award Recipients



James Maurer, Chief of Patrol, (right) accepts Above and Beyond Award for Chicago Police Department from William Glynn (left), Vice Chair.



Roger Cunningham (left, employer) and BUI Thomas Corbin (middle, nominator from USNR and employee) accept Above and Beyond Award for Charleston Police Department from William Glynn (right), Vice Chair.



Dwayne Wood (left, nominator from USAR and employee) and Glenn Eriksen (middle, employer) accept Above and Beyond Award for Arlington Fire Department from William Glynn (right), Vice Chair.



Mark Bucalo (right) accepts the Above and Beyond Award for Illinois Power. Rosalba DeLaPaz, sister of SGT Hector DeLaPaz, (nominator from ARNG, employee), attends on behalf of her deployed brother. Presenting the award is IL ESGR Vice Chair, William Glynn (right).

Nov 9, 2004, John Scully had lunch with Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr., (D, Illinois 1) and discussed ESGR.

10 Nov – Ron Bacci gave a speech on Veteran's Day and ESGR to about 75 members of the US Postal Inspection Service in Chicago.

19 Nov – John Ady received New Member Training from Executive Director at Camp Lincoln and discussed responsibilities as new CE Regional Chair.

1 Dec – John Scully presented the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service and a painting to Pat Rea at the Union League Club in Chicago (picture on right, from left to right is Pat Rea and John Scully)



4 Dec – UNIT BRIEFING – Doug Layhew briefed the 182nd Airlift Wing in Peoria, during the day, eleven airmen were given the Bronze Star

4 Dec – UNIT BRIEFING – Michael Holub briefed 85 members of the 6015th USAR unit at Forest Park and updated the ESGR posters with his contact information

11 Dec – UNIT BRIEFING - Briefing at Marine Corp Reserve Unit in Joliet– Terry McCollom

12 Dec – UNIT BRIEFING - Don Martin briefed 244th Av Bde

13 Dec – UNIT BRIEFING - IL ARNG Retention Managers Conference, Naperville, 10-12 am, Terry McCollom.

29 Dec – UNIT BRIEFING, Galesburg Armory, 1520, 2/123 FA/MP Company Orville Franks & Roger Boyer.

Future Events

4 Jan – EXCOM Teleconference

4 Jan – open nominations to state committees for 2005 SECDEF Freedom Award

13 Jan – Employer Outreach Training at Camp Lincoln in Springfield

25-27 Jan – Ferguson, Meyer, Kennelly and Shewfelt attend New Ombudsman Training in Denver, CO

1 Feb – EXCOM Teleconference

Additional Award Recipients



John Scully presents the Exceptional Public Service Award to Gary Brinner.



Robert Gagnon receives Spirit of Public Service Award from John Scully.



John Scully also presents a Spirit of Public Service Award to Ron Bacci.



Roger Boyer accepts an Exceptional Service Award on behalf of Bill Troy.

16 Feb – New Member Training
 25 Feb – close nominations to state committees for 2005 SECDEF Freedom Award
 2 Mar – ESGR Quarterly EXCOM meeting
 3-4 Mar – Advanced OMB Training
 14-16 Mar – New Ombudsman Training
 1 Apr – EXCOM Teleconference
 20 Apr – Nominations Due for Bosslift
 3 May – EXCOM Teleconference
 2-4 June – North Central Regional Conference
 7 June – Quarterly EXCOM meeting
 5 July – EXCOM Teleconference
 12 – 14 Jul- Mediation Training
 23 – 25 Aug – New Ombudsman Training
 6 Sep – EXCOM Teleconference
 12 Sep – Annual National Conference, Wash DC
 13 Sep – 2005 SECDEF Employer Support Freedom Award Presentation Dinner, Wash DC
 7-8 Oct – Annual IL ESGR Awards and Training Conference in Chicago at Union League Club



Pictured from left to right, receiving Seven Seals Awards, Michael Ayers, Roger Boyer, John Scully (presenting awards), Terry McCollom, Rick Pollack and Bill Glynn. Not present, also receiving a Seven Seals Award was Tom Mauro and Debra Rentner.

WHAT'S NEW?

Welcome to our New Members!

25 Oct 04 Jessica Martin, CW Region, Ombudsman
 25 Oct 04 Richard Shewfelt, NE Region, Ombudsman
 04 Nov 04 Pat Winfrey,
 19 Nov 04 John Kennelly, NC Region, Ombudsman

NEWS FROM NATIONAL

It is very important to ensure all Ombudsman cases are closed by calling, faxing or emailing the resolution that closed the case. Please check with Ron Bacci if you are an Ombudsman to ensure that you do not have any open cases.



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Additional Award Recipients



John presents an Exceptional Service Award to David Oates.



Don Martin receives a Lifetime Achievement Award.



Fremont Piercefield accepts the Lifetime Achievement Award for William Bonnstetter.



The Statement of Support program has changed to a Statement of Support that has options of a one star, two star, three star, four star and five star employer. Each star on the certificate represents an increasing level of commitment or support for employee military service on the part of the employer. One star: have indicated support by signing Statement of Support, two star: have reviewed HR policies and have ensured they comply with USERRA, three star: employer has trained managers and supervisors on USERRA to effectively manage members of Guard and Reserve, four star: employer's HR policies are Above and Beyond USERRA and a five star employer is actively involved with ESGR and has an employee on our committee. Nationals has set our state goal at 253 expected five star employers next year. Please contact Michael Ayers at 217-522-5512 if you would like to coordinate a Statement of Support signing.

Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) tip:

WHAT ARE THE UNIFORMED SERVICES? USERRA defines the uniformed services as the army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service. The Army National Guard and Air National Guard qualify when performing active duty for training, inactive duty training, or full-time national Guard duty. Finally, during a period of war or national emergency the President can designate any other category of persons to be a "uniformed service" for purposes of USERRA. 38 U.S.C. 4303(16).

Guard and Reserve information in Illinois:

Army Reserve, visit <http://www.usarc.army.mil/88thsrc/>

Air Force Reserve, visit <http://www.afreserve.com> or <http://www.afrc.af.mil/>

Army & Air National Guard, visit www.il.ngb.army.mil

Marine Forces Reserve, visit <http://www.mfr.usmc.mil/> or <http://www.marforres.usmc.mil/Units/IL.html>

Coast Guard Reserve, visit <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/reserve/reshmpg.html> or <http://www.piersystem.com/external/index.cfm?CID=443>

Naval Reserve, visit <http://www.navalreserve.com/ps/events/> or <http://www.nsgreatlakes.navy.mil/aindex.htm>

Update your Information

If you are not receiving emails from the Executive Director, we do not have your current/correct email address in the system. If you receive the Quarterly Newsletter through email but it did not reach you through regular mail, we do not have your current/correct home or work address that you requested us to send mail to. If you need to update your mailing or email address please call Shannon Pennell.



Executive Committee

State Chair

John E. Scully,
312-904-8183

Executive Director

Shannon L. Pennell,
217-761-3642

Employer Outreach Chair

Michael Ayers,
217-522-5512

Ombudsman Chair

Ron Bacci,
312-904-7114

North West Area Chair

Rick Pollack,
815-226-5994

North East Area Chair & Vice Chair

Bill Glynn,
312-288-0500

North Central Area Chair & Military Liaison Chair

Terry McCollom,
708-383-6450

Central West Area Chair

Roger Boyer,
309-693-9580

Central East Area Chair

John Ady
217-359-8080

South West Area Chair

David Oates,
618-345-2200

South East Area Chair

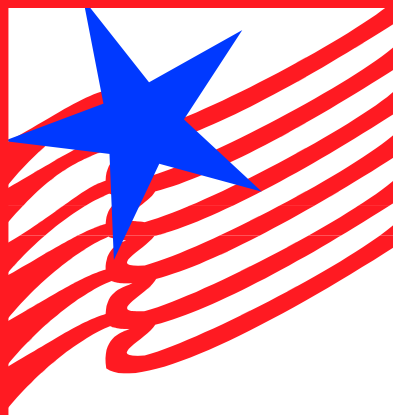
Donald Askew,
618-564-2943

Public Affairs Chair

Mike Peck,
847-991-4700

Awards Chair

Maryann Morrison,
309-675-4464



IL ESGR THANKS YOU !



Bob Pinkerton accepts a plaque, thanking him for his contributions as well.

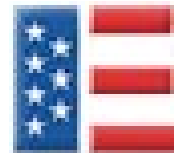


Fremont Piercefield accepts a plaque for his supportive donation to the conference. Also receiving plaques for their donations and unavailable for photo were Pat Rea, Brad Cole and Mike Holub.



Robert Mikyska is presented with a plaque for his gracious donation for the annual conference.

How to become a member of IL ESGR



If you know anyone interested in becoming an active member of IL ESGR please notify your Regional Chair or Shannon Pennell for an application. We are in need of active volunteers willing to assist us in this very noble cause for the Guard and Reserve. Military personnel acting as the ESGR POC for your unit are also highly encouraged to become a member of ESGR to receive mailings and invitations to our events, training sessions, conferences and help us help you.

